

Pennsylvania Railroad Station
Shelton Avenue
Alexandria
Huntingdon County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-5415

HABS
PA,
31-ALEX,
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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, DC 20013-7127

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD STATION

HABS No. PA-5415

Location: North side of Shelton Avenue, between Hartslog Street and the old canal basin, Alexandria, Porter Township, Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania.

Significance: This served as Alexandria's first railroad station from 1897 to 1903. The railroad purchased this section of the canal in 1866, but did not close it until 1875; thus, the transportation industry in Alexandria during the last quarter of the century was served by one railroad, and this was the first, albeit short-lived, local depot.

Description: Square frame structure approximately 18' by 18', with a pyramidal, low-pitched roof. One facade featured a central door flanked by six-over-six-light wood sash; another is dominated by oversized double wood doors. The wide eaves and modest cornice brackets are the sole ornamentation.

History: Constructed in 1897 (HAER inventory), this railroad station was erected when the railway company extended the tracks (off the mainline at Petersburg) through Alexandria. It was used until 1903 when William Woolverton convinced the Pennsylvania Railroad Company to erect a finer building (demolished) to reflect the new, nearby Alexandria Memorial Library. The Pennsylvania Railroad occupied the building until this time, when it ceased to be a depot and was relocated. It is currently unused.

Sources: Harshbarger, Jean, N.R. Taylor, S.H. Zabriskie, F.R. Zabriskie. Hartslog Heritage. State College, PA: K-B Offset Printing Co., 1975; 74, 78.

HAER Inventory.

Historian: Karen Genskow, NPS Project Historian, August 1988.

Project Information:

This report was completed as part of a larger project documenting two canal towns--Saltsburg, on the Western Division of the Pennsylvania Mainline Canal, and Alexandria, on the Juniata Division--flanking the Allegheny Divide. Twenty-one reports on other buildings in Alexandria, an overview history of Alexandria (HABS No. PA-5407), and of canal town development in Pennsylvania (HABS No. PA-5666) are part of the HABS/HAER collection. Twenty-two reports on buildings in Saltsburg (Indiana County) and an overview history of Saltsburg (HABS No. PA-5438) are also available. Results of the project were published as Two Historic Pennsylvania Canal Towns: Alexandria and Saltsburg, Sara Amy Leach, editor (Washington, DC: Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record, National Park Service, March 1989).